

## NIDDK PROGRAM PLANNING PROCESS

The FY 2003 initiative concepts presented in this document are just one component of a multifaceted NIDDK program planning process, through which the Institute seeks to enhance its program development—in consultation with its respective scientific and lay communities. Presented annually to the NIDDK National Advisory Council, these concepts include plans to issue various research solicitations to stimulate scientific inquiry, respond to Congressional and Administration emphases, or capitalize on impressive research findings. Also included are plans for conferences and workshops. Thus, the present document is only a partial presentation of the many research efforts of the NIDDK. It complements an extensive and highly productive portfolio of ongoing NIDDK initiatives, such as major clinical trials—and robust fundamental research portfolios that are largely fueled by investigator-initiated research grants.

*Short-Term Implementation Planning:* The compilation of initiative concepts presented in this document focuses mainly on initiatives considered ready for implementation in the upcoming fiscal year, provided that funding is available and that the number of scientifically meritorious applications identified through the NIH peer review system is sufficient to meet the planned funding targets. While one or two of the planned initiatives may take longer to develop, most of the concepts are ready to implement in FY 2003.

*Longer-Term Strategic Planning:* The NIDDK is strengthening its long-range planning *via* Strategic Planning Groups. The Institute has established three trans-NIDDK working groups on the following topics: (1) Genetics, Genomics and Bioinformatics; (2) Stem Cells and Developmental Biology; and (3) Disease Prevention and Management. Each group consists of Council members, other scientists external to the NIH, and NIDDK administrative leaders. These groups are providing advice and recommendations to the Institute with respect to the formulation of long-term initiatives to capitalize on scientific opportunities and emerging technologies, as well as to meet pressing public health needs.

*NIDDK Strategic Plan:* The NIDDK Strategic Plan addresses cross-cutting themes that unite the Institute's programs: genetics, cell biology, clinical research, and infrastructure. Panels of eminent scientists and lay leaders assisted the NIDDK in formulating this plan, which can be accessed on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.niddk.nih.gov/federal/planning/stratplan-2000.htm>

*NIDDK Strategic Plan on Health Disparities:* This plan is part of an NIH-wide effort. It contains initiatives the Institute intends to pursue in order to address the disproportionately heavy burden that many of the diseases within the NIDDK mission place on racial and ethnic minority groups. It also contains initiatives intended to build related institutional and individual research capacity, through research training and manpower development programs, and to develop culturally sensitive health information and education programs tailored to racial and ethnic minority groups. This strategic plan is available on the World Wide Web at:

[http://www.niddk.nih.gov/federal/planning/strategicplan\\_minority.htm](http://www.niddk.nih.gov/federal/planning/strategicplan_minority.htm)

*Disease-Specific Strategic Plans:* A critically important part of the multi-dimensional NIDDK program planning process is the development of research strategies that are specific to the disease programs and operating divisions of the Institute. For example, the NIDDK has participated in the development of kidney disease, liver disease, and bladder disease research plans in close consultation with professional and lay leaders in those fields. The NIDDK also integrates into its program planning process recommendations and advice from disease-targeted plans that are developed independently by external groups and organizations. For example, the congressionally established Diabetes Research Working Group developed a strategic plan for diabetes research. This plan contains a wide range of scientific recommendations that are proving extremely helpful to the Institute in framing new diabetes initiatives.

Thus, the present compilation of planned initiative concepts for likely implementation in FY 2003 is just one component of a much larger trans-NIDDK and program-specific process, which includes planning for clinical trials; longer-term cross-cutting and disease-targeted planning for FY 2004 and several fiscal years beyond; and a global strategic vision for future research directions. Taken collectively, the several components of the NIDDK program planning process enable the Institute to work closely with the communities it serves to: assess the state of its science base; identify areas of research need and opportunity; and develop strategies and initiatives to encourage scientists to pursue research avenues that will benefit the health and well-being of all Americans.